

January, 1920, February, 1932, was the twenty-fourth consecutive month having average or above average temperature.

The extreme warmth¹ in the Caribbean, which prevailed in December, 1930, and during the first nine months of 1931, was, however, at an end. February, 1932, was the fifth successive month with temperatures not more than 0.5° above the average, and the departure, 0.2°, of this month from the 13-year mean was that of an essentially normal month rather than of a particularly warm one, since approximately two months out of three may be expected to have greater temperature anomalies than 0.2°.

STRAITS OF FLORIDA

The Straits of Florida showed a temperature situation quite different from that in the Caribbean. In the straits, this was the warmest February in the 13 years of record. Both the second and the third quarters of this month (the 8th to the 14th and the 15th to the 21st) were warmer than any previous February quarter-month during the entire period treated, and the temperature anomaly of February, 1932, as a whole, was greater than that of any previous month from 1920 to date.

December, 1931, January, 1932, and February, 1932, taken together, constitute a period in which the surface temperatures in the Straits of Florida were as remarkably higher than normal as were those in the Caribbean Sea through most of 1931. The straits area was warmer during each of these three months than it had ever been

before during the same months since the beginning of 1920. In addition, the temperature departures of 1.9°, 1.8°, and 2.1°, respectively, from the 12 or 13 year December, January, and February means were each greater than that for any month in the 12 years preceding the beginning of this warm period in 1931-32.

These extreme conditions paralleled in magnitude of temperature anomaly and in uniqueness, if not in duration, the unprecedented thermal condition in the Caribbean shortly before. The periods of extreme warmth in the two areas, were, however, not contemporaneous. The abnormally high temperatures in the Caribbean were at an end before the abnormally high temperatures appeared in the straits, and, during the early winter months, the nearly seasonable temperatures in the Caribbean and the remarkably high temperatures in the straits were in strong contrast.

TABLE 1.—*Preliminary mean sea-surface temperatures (°F.) in the Caribbean Sea and Straits of Florida, February, 1932*

Quarter	Period	Caribbean Sea			Straits of Florida		
		Mean (°F.)	Departure from 13-year mean (1920-1932)	Change from preceding month	Mean (°F.)	Departure from 13-year mean (1920-1932)	Change from preceding month
I.....	Feb. 1-7.....	78.8	+0.1	-----	76.2	+1.3	-----
II.....	Feb. 8-14.....	78.4	0.0	-----	77.0	+1.6	-----
III.....	Feb. 15-21.....	79.1	+0.5	-----	77.4	+2.7	-----
IV.....	Feb. 22-29.....	78.9	+0.3	-----	76.6	+1.9	-----
	Month.....	78.8	+0.2	-0.8	76.8	+2.1	+0.1

¹ Cf. Summary of Sea-Surface Temperature Data for 1931, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW. Vol. 60: 35.